REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1-9 are currently amended. Claims 10 and 11 are added. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

The Office Action objects to the specification based on minor informalities. By way of the present amendment, Applicant has revised the specification to address the informalities noted in the Office Action as well as other potential informalities.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that Claims 2-4 and 6-9 recited subject matter that is deemed allowable over the prior art of record. Application has amended claims 2-4 and 6-9 in non-narrowing respects to correct potential grammatical informalities. Allowance of claims 2-4 and 6-9 is requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Willard, U.S. Patent No. 6,374,405. This rejection is respectfully traversed as follows.

The invention according to claims 1 and 5 is directed a scheduling technique, by which the scheduling start time for each of a plurality of processes, relative to a predetermined end time, is calculated. Start time is calculated according to the number of processing requests for each type from the predetermined scheduling end time to the scheduling start time of the pertinent frame. Based on this calculation, the scheduling result associated with the scheduling time necessary for the respective processing requests can be reflected in the next frame. Consequently, the condition of the latest processing request is reflected in the next frame scheduling. By calculating the stat time, the overall time is kept within a certain period.

Willard is directed to a broadcast/multicast system. It is understood that Willard's system hastens a start time of each process demand by pseudo-concurrent processing, based on a multitasking concept. For demands to be processed one after another in Willard's system, a demander cuts in, and the start time of all process demands is scheduled to be

brought forward. Therefore, Willard's system appears to utilize a method in which a process is separated upon receiving a process demand.

It is also noted that the Willard reference is applied to a broadcast / multicast system, in which transmission is restricted to a downlink. The present invention, on the contrary, may be applied to an interactive, duplex system, as well as to a broadcast / multicast system.

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 5 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim features of the invention. It is submitted that claims 1 and 5, as amended, are patentable over Willard.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 3/30/04

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